

NEWSLETTER # 21

Hi Fans,

Richard & Karen thank you for all the lovely cards and gifts you sent and hope that you all enjoyed very Happy Holidays.

For those of you who have been requesting patches, we now have them. They are three inches square with the now famous yellow and orange silhouette and logo. Very fetching. They sell for \$1.00 each. We also have a limited supply of song books in the F.C. office. "CARPENTERS GOLD" for piano, vocal and guitar sells for \$6.50 and "BRADLEY'S BEST OF THE BEST" organ arrangements is \$2.25. These prices include shipping and handling charges.

Tour-wise, we left our Stars in Downey where they were enjoying Mom's good cooking. Their next hop was to Omaha where they stayed three days for concerts in Lincoln, Sioux City and Omaha. They drove from Omaha to the other two cities and K & R were impressed with the numerous fields of tall corn. In Sioux City they hired an orchestra then discovered there were not enough dressing rooms in the theater for everyone to dress. So they rented rooms in a hotel 2 blocks away and drove to the theater all costumed. Though it was a $2\frac{1}{2}$ hour drive from Omaha to Sioux City, they managed to arrive early for an afternoon rehearsal. A local TV station sent cameras to tape part of the rehearsal and it was shown on local news later that evening. After the gig in Omaha, Maria discovered a glass blower in one of the Hilton shops so she had him create a miniature glass piano for Richard, with his initials on it - a lovely gift for Richard's birthday.

The group was in a cold and windy Fargo, N.D. on R's birthday and the whole day was filled with crazy happenings. Near the end of the gig, K tore the ruffle off of her lovely lace dress when it caught on the rough corner of the stage steps. But the show must go on, so she returned for an encore in the torn dress. Manager, Sherwin Bash took K & R to dinner while the rest of the group got together to plan a surprise party for Richard. Allen Tinkley, promoter, supplied two cakes with 13 candles on each cake. Party news soon leaked out and it wasn't long before the hotel was filled with college students who were jubilant over their homecoming game victory. As a "special" birthday gift, someone short sheeted R's beds. There were two beds in his room and since it wasn't known which one he occupied, both beds were given the treatment. R. blamed Danny for this dilemma but we're not so sure that Danny was the villian. Rochester, Minn. greeted them with a strong cold wind and a temperature of 22°. Though most of the group preferred the warmth of the hotel, three of the group ventured out early in the morning to watch the Canadian Honkers. They took with them, 4 loaves of bread and a huge bag of popcorn to feed their feathered friends. It was a fantastic sight, they said, to see thousands upon thousands of these beautiful birds land on the water like well piloted jets. Memories of Green Bay, Wis. are centered on the motel they guested there. It was like no other they have ever seen. The indoor pool was located smack in the center of the building with guest rooms surrounding it. The building was roofed with a bubble-like dome. A very high temperature was maintained to accomodate the swimmers and K & R found they had to turn on the air conditioner to cool it off enough to sleep. The pool was rented out for swimming lessons so by 8:00 A.M. K & R were awakened by singing, crying, laughing and screaming youngsters. Arising unusually early, they decided to have breakfast and found that it wouldn't be served until 11:00 o'clock ! They finally gave in though and served them a meal after manager, Sherwin pleaded. A frustrating incident took place that evening when, after washing K's hair, it was discovered to their dismay, the voltage was not strong enough to support her hair dryer and the fuse kept blowing. The hotel clerk finally had to stand by the fuse box and flip the switch back on every time it went off. So after a long, aggravating try, her hair was finally dried by leaps and jerks. Duluth was another cold and windy city - temperature 23°. The dressing rooms there were too well lighted for the sheerness of the drapes. In K's room, the kids could see right through and watch her dress so she turned off the light and dressed in the dark.. After this gig, K & R flew home to see their mom who was in the hospital for a check-up. Davenport's Masonic Temple will always be remembered for the 10,000 stairs they had to climb to get to the auditorium. At least it SEEMED like that many. There was a freight elevator there but it was so busy hauling freight, there was no time or room for human cargo. The Temple will also be remembered for the beautiful buffet that was catered to them consisting of tons of delicious food. In LaCrosse they purchased a plastic 10 pin bowling game and converted the hotel hall into a bowling alley, until the only other tenant on that floor complained. Then they reluctantly moved to the rec. room where Richard won the tournament. Will leave them in LaCrosse & continue next month.

Ev.